

are people that want to have jobs, that are looking for work. It is 50,000 workers. It is 50,000 families that lose their benefits in communities all over my State, all over this country.

The second thing the administration needs to do is allow for trade adjustment assistance. They have opposed that, even though all those jobs that have gone to Mexico and China and all over the world, those workers need help.

And, third, the administration needs to pass the Crane-Rangel bill, bipartisan legislation that will give tax breaks to those corporations that hire people in the United States.

The President, on the other hand, wants to give more tax cuts to the wealthiest individuals and more tax cuts to the largest corporations and rewarding those companies that are outsourcing, that are sending their jobs overseas. We need to reward those companies and give incentives to those companies that are hiring American workers and build back our manufacturing base. My State has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs in the last 3 years. My State has lost 205 jobs every single day of the Bush administration. These pleas continue to fall on deaf ears. The President tries the same tired solutions. They have not worked for 3 years. It is time we changed course.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

TRADE DEFICIT AND GAS PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about two separate issues but both related to the economic well-being, the pocketbooks of the American people.

First, the trade deficit. The Washington Post reported on February 16 that our trade deficit reached a record \$489 billion in 2003. The story said that "while the trade report showed the robust growth in U.S. consumption, it also provided a stark reminder of problems on the economy's productive side. In particular, the lack of employment

growth which is attributable in part to the loss of jobs to foreign competition."

At a hearing before the subcommittee I chair, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, the head of the World Shipping Council said ships were coming to the U.S. full but leaving empty.

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We cannot sustain this type of deficit for many more years. By far the largest trade imbalance is with China and will probably be around \$150 billion this year. With a tiny bit less than 4 percent of the world's population, we buy 25 percent of the world's goods. This means that every other country desperately wants into our markets. We have tremendous trade leverage that we have not used as we should have. It has been used mainly to help large multinational companies which have had great influence, too much influence, in our government.

However, our trade agreements have been detrimental to the majority of American small and medium-sized businesses and to our workers. I believe other countries are probably amazed that we have not been tougher in trade negotiations.

We should tell any nation with which we have a large trade imbalance, starting with China, that we want to be friends, that we want cultural and educational exchanges, tourism, and especially trade; but we want that trade to be both free and fair. We should tell the Chinese and others to start looking for products they can buy from us because if they do not start bringing down the trade deficits within a reasonable time, we will have to renegotiate some of our trade agreements.

William Hawkins, Senior Fellow, at the U.S. Business and Industry Council, summed it up best in a recent column in the Washington Times: "Commerce is driven by competition, making trade rivalry a part of the larger struggle of nations for independence, security, and prosperity."

Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of seeing so many millions of American jobs going to other countries, and there is tremendous concern about this all across this Nation.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, gas prices. Gas prices have risen to some of their highest levels ever, primarily for two reasons: one, we are being robbed by foreign oil producers; and, two, extreme environmentalists oppose any oil production in the U.S. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a 19.8 million acre site, 35 times the size of the Great Smokey Mountains. Yet some left-wing extremists oppose drilling on some 2,000 acres in the Arctic Nation Wildlife Refuge, about 1/100 of 1 percent of the refuge, in a part that is a frozen tundra with no trees or bushes for many, many miles. We have not opened a new oil refinery since 1975, and something like 36 have been forced to close since 1980 due to too many rules and regulations. If

we do not, Mr. Speaker, we will become even more vulnerable to foreign nations and damage both our economy and our national security.

These environmental extremists almost always come from very wealthy or upper-income families, and perhaps they do not realize how much they are hurting the poor and the lower-income and the working people of this country, but we need to produce more U.S. oil to bring down these gas prices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING AUGUST WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to August Wilson, the leading playwright of his generation and an icon of contemporary American theatre.

For more than 20 years, August Wilson's sometimes searing, but always provocative, dramas have flung theatregoers into the lives and circumstances of black Americans. Performed throughout the country, these works have amused and disquieted us. They have deepened our understanding of our history and our society.

In recognition of the unforgettable portraits he has created, Mr. Wilson has received repeatedly every award bestowed by the literary community, including two Pulitzer Prizes, and five Tony Awards. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

August Wilson has been a resident of Seattle since 1990. So it is quite appropriate that the Seattle's Rainier Club, one of the oldest entities in the city, has named him its laureate for 2004-2005. This occasion offers all of us a most welcome opportunity to salute Mr. Wilson for his transforming contributions to American theatre.

He joins the other laureates of Seattle, Jonathan Raban; Ernestine Anderson, the jazz artist; Dave Horsey, the Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist. He has been a real tribute to our city